

## Sally

Peter was playing the piano with Sally sitting beside him. She looked as alert and intelligent as black-and-white collies always do. Peter looked sideways at her.

"Anyone would think you wanted to play," he said.

"Do you?" The dog sat silent, watching his face.

"Well," said Peter. "Speak when you're spoken to." Sally growled. "All right," said Peter. "Shut the door then, Sal," and at these words the collie jumped off the piano stool and ran across the room to the open door. She leapt up and put her front paws against it so that it slammed shut.

These tricks were useful ones, Peter found. When he said, "Shut the door" he didn't have to get up if he was lying reading. When he said "Speak when you're spoken to" Sally growled and got rid of unwanted visitors. The louder he said it, the fiercer Sally growled and the quicker they went.

"For a dog like Sally, piano-playing should be a piece of cake," thought Peter. "Up!" he said to her, and she jumped on to the stool, and "Sit!" and she sat. Peter took a bit of biscuit out of his pocket and held it in front of her but out of reach.

"Play the piano!" he said. Sally did not move. "Play the piano!" said Peter again, and he brought the biscuit down and nearer, and kept saying it and kept lowering it until at last the collie could bear it no longer. She put her front paws on the keyboard and took the biscuit from Peter's fingers.

"Good dog!" said Peter, as a horrible crashing discord rang out.

**Dick King-Smith** from *Sally*  
(Ginn & Company)





Write out the sentences that are true. (15 marks)

- 1 Sally didn't really like Peter very much.
- 2 Peter would have preferred to have a cat.
- 3 Sally closed the door whenever Peter asked.
- 4 Sally talked by growling whenever Peter asked.
- 5 Sally played the piano very well.
- 6 Sally made a terrible noise when she put her paws on the piano keyboard.
- 7 Peter taught Sally to play all the tunes he knew.
- 8 Sally was a black-and-white collie dog.
- 9 Sally loved eating the cake that Peter kept in his pocket.
- 10 Peter thought Sally was very intelligent.